

Application No. 10/736,000
Amendment Dated October 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 2, 2006

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A slatwall assembly for removably receiving and securing hangers and other display devices to a substantially vertical supporting surface, said slatwall assembly comprising:

a plurality of like-shaped, elongated slatwall sections, each of said sections having an integral one-piece body with top and bottom ends and adjacent boards that project forward from a continuous rear wall, each section including an upper board and a lower board, said continuous rear wall extending from proximal said top end to proximal said bottom end and having alternating and linearly aligned board segments and spacer segments, said spacer segments including at least one internal spacer segment that spaces apart its said adjacent boards and at least one external spacer segment, each board having spaced apart front, rear, top and bottom walls that form a loop around a chamber, said spaced apart rear wall being formed by said continuous rear wall, said top wall being substantially flat and each board defining a downwardly extending lip, each of said rear walls of said boards being formed by one of said board segments, and each of said at least one internal spacer segments combining with its said adjacent boards to form an elongated slot with a uniform L-shaped profile;

wherein said elongated slatwall sections are adapted for rigid securement to the supporting surface in substantial horizontal alignment to form adjacent slatwall sections, each of said adjacent slatwall sections including an upper section and a lower section, said top end of said lower section longitudinally being adapted to engage said bottom end of said upper section with at least one of said external spacer segments uniformly spacing adjacent upper and lower boards formed by said lower board of said upper section from said upper board of said lower section; and,

wherein said at least one external spacer segment between each of said adjacent slatwall sections combines with its said adjacent upper and lower boards to form an additional elongated slot, each of said slots being like shaped and including an outer portion located along its said adjacent lower board and an inner portion located behind said lip of its said adjacent upper board, said inner portion being wider than said outer portion.

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2. (Withdrawn) The slatwall assembly of Claim 1, and wherein the hangers and display devices include a bracket with an upper offset portion and a lower portion, said offset portion being removably receivable by said slot, said offset portion resting on said top wall of said lower board forming said slot and said offset portion abutting said lip of said upper board forming said slot, and said lower portion abutting said front wall of at least one of said boards below said slot.
3. (Previously Presented) The slatwall assembly of Claim 1, and wherein said lip is a double-walled lip with an outer wall formed by said front wall and an inner wall formed by said bottom wall, said inner and outer walls being spaced apart by a lower portion of said bottom wall.
4. (Original) The slatwall assembly of Claim 1, and wherein said slatwall sections are extruded from high impact polystyrene.
5. (Previously Presented) The slatwall assembly of Claim 4, and wherein said adjacent boards are located at three inch increments, said walls have a thickness of about 1/16 inch, and said slatwall sections support a load of 25 pounds at an effective distance of one foot from said front wall.
6. (Withdrawn) The slatwall assembly of Claim 5, and wherein said supporting surface has a flat drywall layer and said continuous rear wall has a substantially flat rear surface to flushly engage the drywall layer, and wherein said assembly further includes a uniform adhesive coating between said continuous rear wall and the drywall layer to rigidly bond said slatwall sections to the drywall layer.
7. (Original) The slatwall assembly of Claim 1, and wherein said chamber is web-free, and said front, rear, top and bottom walls form a continuous loop around said web-free chamber.
8. (Original) The slatwall assembly of Claim 1, and wherein each of said slatwall sections has opposed side ends, and said boards and L-shaped slots extend continuously between said opposed side ends.

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9. (Original) The slatwall assembly of Claim 1, and wherein each of said slatwall sections has at least one middle board.
10. (Original) The slatwall assembly of Claim 1, and wherein said top and bottom ends of each of said slatwall sections has one of said external spacer segments, said external spacer segments forming upper and lower connectors, said upper connector of said lower section combining with said lower connector of said upper section of said adjacent slatwall sections to form one of said external spacer segments.
11. (Original) The slatwall assembly of Claim 10, and wherein one of said connectors has an offset portion to form a groove for matingly receiving said connector of said adjoining section.
12. (Currently Amended) An extruded slatwall section for securing hangers and other display devices to an upwardly extending supporting surface, said extruded slatwall section comprising:
a unibody section having top and bottom ends and spaced upper and lower boards projecting forward from a continuous rear wall that extends from proximal said top end to proximal said bottom end;
each board including spaced apart front, rear, top and bottom walls that form a continuous loop around a web-free chamber, said top wall being substantially flat and each board defining a downwardly extending double walled lip;
said continuous rear wall including alternating board segments and spacer segments, said rear wall of each of said boards being formed by one of said board segments, said boards being spaced apart by an adjoining spacer segment, said spaced apart rear wall forming said loop being formed by said continuous rear wall; and,
an L-shaped slot formed between said boards and said adjoining spacer segment, said slot being between said top wall of said lower board and said bottom wall of said upper board, said slot having an outer portion and an inner portion, said inner portion being wider than said outer portion and located between said lip of said upper board and said spacer segment.

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13. (Original) The extruded slatwall section of Claim 12, and wherein said double-walled lip has an outer wall formed by said front wall and an inner wall formed by said bottom wall, said inner and outer walls being spaced apart by a lower portion of said bottom wall.
14. (Original) The extruded slatwall section of Claim 12, and wherein said slatwall section is extruded from high impact polystyrene.
15. (Previously Presented) The extruded slatwall section of Claim 14, and wherein said walls have a thickness of about 1/16 inch, and said slatwall section supports a load of 25 pounds at an effective distance of one foot from said front wall.
16. (Original) The extruded slatwall section of Claim 12, and said slatwall section has opposed ends, and said boards and L-shaped slot extend continuously between said opposed side ends.
17. (Original) The extruded slatwall section of Claim 12, and wherein said slatwall section has at least one middle board.
18. (Currently Amended) A slatwall extrusion for supporting hangers and display devices, said slatwall extrusion comprising:
 - an integral plastic unibody section having top and bottom ends;
 - a plurality of boards, each board having spaced apart front, rear, top and bottom walls that form continuous loop around a web-free chamber, said top wall being substantially flat and each board defining a downwardly extending double-walled lip;
 - a continuous rear wall having a plurality of alternating wall segments and spacer segments, said spacer segment spacing said top wall of an adjacent lower board from said bottom wall of an adjacent upper board, said spaced apart rear wall forming said loop being formed by said continuous rear wall; and,
 - an L-shaped slot formed by said spacer segment and its adjacent top wall and bottom wall, said slot having an outer portion and an upwardly extending inner portion, said inner portion being

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wider than said outer portion and located between said spacer segment and said lip of its said adjacent bottom wall.

19. (Original) The slatwall extrusion of Claim 18, and wherein said spacer segments are linearly aligned with said rear walls of said boards.

20. (Original) The slatwall extrusion of Claim 19, and wherein each of said board sections are uniformly spaced and each of said board sections has a like-shaped cross-sectional shape.